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# EDITORIAL

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## GOETHALS PASSES

Major General George W. Goethals, builder of the Panama Canal, is dead, but he left as his monument one of the epic accomplishments of mankind. Just as Pericles could have no greater memorial than the Parthenon, or Sir Christopher Wren none greater than St. Paul's, Goethals can have none greater than the mighty man-made gorge in Panama. He will be recorded in history as the man who accomplished one of the greatest feats of engineering and construction since the Egyptians completed their pyramids.

When Goethals arrived at Panama, he found the remains of many years of toil by several French companies, who had attempted to dig the canal. This, however, was of little or no aid to him. After seven years of unremitting labor, wherein he drove himself as hard and as relentlessly as he drove the other isthmian toilers, and during which he met and conquered almost unbelievable obstacles of nature and science, he reported to the world that his job was finished. Success of the project was probably largely due to the fact that General Goethals could see beyond the strict limits of his profession. He realized that the first thing to do was to make the isthmus a fit place for a white man to live. His chief sanitary officer, Major General William Gorgas, cleaned the land of the fever which had taken such terrible toll in previous attempts.

The success of General Goethals was built in a large measure upon the failure of his predecessors. One of these had turned the first spade of earth in Panama more than half a century before. Even the famed De Lesseps, builder of the Suez Canal, abandoned the task and spent the rest of his life brooding over his failure. It was the energy, persistence and brains of the army engineers and the remarkable efficiency of the workers who labored under them, together with the unusual organizing ability possessed by Goethals, that did in a few years what the experts of other nations had declared could never be done.

Not every engineer gets the chance to build a Panama Canal, but he does get the opportunity

to serve as faithfully and to be as great a credit to his profession as General Goethals. A great engineer has passed to us a torch for us to carry on high.

—E. M. S.

## SILHOUETTE CONTEST

Out of the Engineering Drawing department comes one of the best ideas in years. "Turney" and "Bob" Meiklejohn suggest a faculty silhouette contest, to be run in *The Ohio State Engineer*, and offer to prepare silhouettes of the faculty of the Engineering College.

In the next issue we will run a plate of these silhouettes, listing each by a number, and a prize will be offered to the student who correctly identifies the greatest number of his instructors. The contest will run through the March and April issues, and announcement of the winners, and correct identifications of the cuts will be made in the May issue. The first plate of silhouettes, and full details of the contest will be given in the next issue. Any student in the College of Engineering is eligible to enter. *Get your March issue early* so that you can get a head start in the contest.

## BOOKS

These are the masters who instruct us without rods and ferules, without hard words and anger, without clothes or money. If you approach them, they are not asleep; if investigating you interrogate them, they conceal nothing; if you mistake them, they never grumble; if you are ignorant, they cannot laugh at you. The library, therefore, of wisdom is more precious than all riches, and nothing that can be wished for is worthy to be compared with it. Whosoever therefore acknowledges himself to be a zealous follower of truth, of happiness, of wisdom, of science, or even of the faith, must of necessity make himself a lover of books.—Richard de Bury in 1344 in "Philobiblon," the first English book on the joys of reading, written more than a hundred years before the invention of printing, and later published, in 1474.